Product/Service Description Document Experimental Carolinas Coast/Southeast Marine Web Portal National Weather Service Eastern Region
National Weather Service Southern Region
Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product/Service Description - The National Weather Service's (NWS)Experimental Carolinas Coast/Southeast Marine Web Portal provides marine observations, forecasts and short and long-fuse warnings for the coastal waters of North Carolina, South Carolina and northern Georgia and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas of the Southern Region. The recent development of regional and sub regional "coastal ocean observing systems under the national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative creates new opportunities for increased meteorological and oceanographic data availability. Currently, region-specific information on marine and coastal conditions is collected by, stored and disseminated from a wide range of government and academic institutions and includes a variety of information types and protocols. There is a need for improved, coordinated delivery of relevant information to a broad user community. One of the most efficient ways for coastal ocean observing systems to disseminate marine information to the public is through a partnership with local NOAANWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), since the targeted audiences already rely on these offices for marine observations and forecast needs. The prototype website that will be used to disseminate the consolidated marine information is titled "Carolinas Coast"
b. Product Type – Experimental
c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental website is to provide our customers and partners a simple, standardized web based portal to access current forecasts, consolidated coastal ocean observations and monitoring activities for North Carolina and South Carolina in one website. This website will support NOAA's Mission Goals of Serving Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information and Supporting the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation.
d. Audience - The target audience for this experimental product is thegeneral marine community, including but not limited to: coastal town managers, recreational and commercial mariners, beachgoers, surfers, scubadivers, fishermen, marine and beach safety officials and the general public.
e. Presentation Format – The site has four tabs that represent marine themes that the target audience needs to make informed boating decisions: Current observations, hazards, tides, and marine forecast. Map overlays, which can be toggled on/off, provide users with additional information and are incorporated in the display for each of the tabs.
f. Feedback Method – A web survey will be used to obtain user feedback. The survey is available at the following link:

http://www.weather.gov/survey/web-survey.php?code=cc-marine
Technical comments for the Experimental Carolinas Coast Marine Web Portaldeveloper may be addressed to:

Donald J. Miller III Eastern Region Marine Program Manager DOC/NOAA/NWS Eastern Region Headquarters 630 Johnson Avenue, STE 202 Bohemia, NY 11716

E-mail comments can be sent to Donald.J. Miller@noaa.gov

The comment period runs from April 1 2007 to January 31, 2009

Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis -There are four tabs related to various marine weather information integrated on this webpage. A sample of the display for

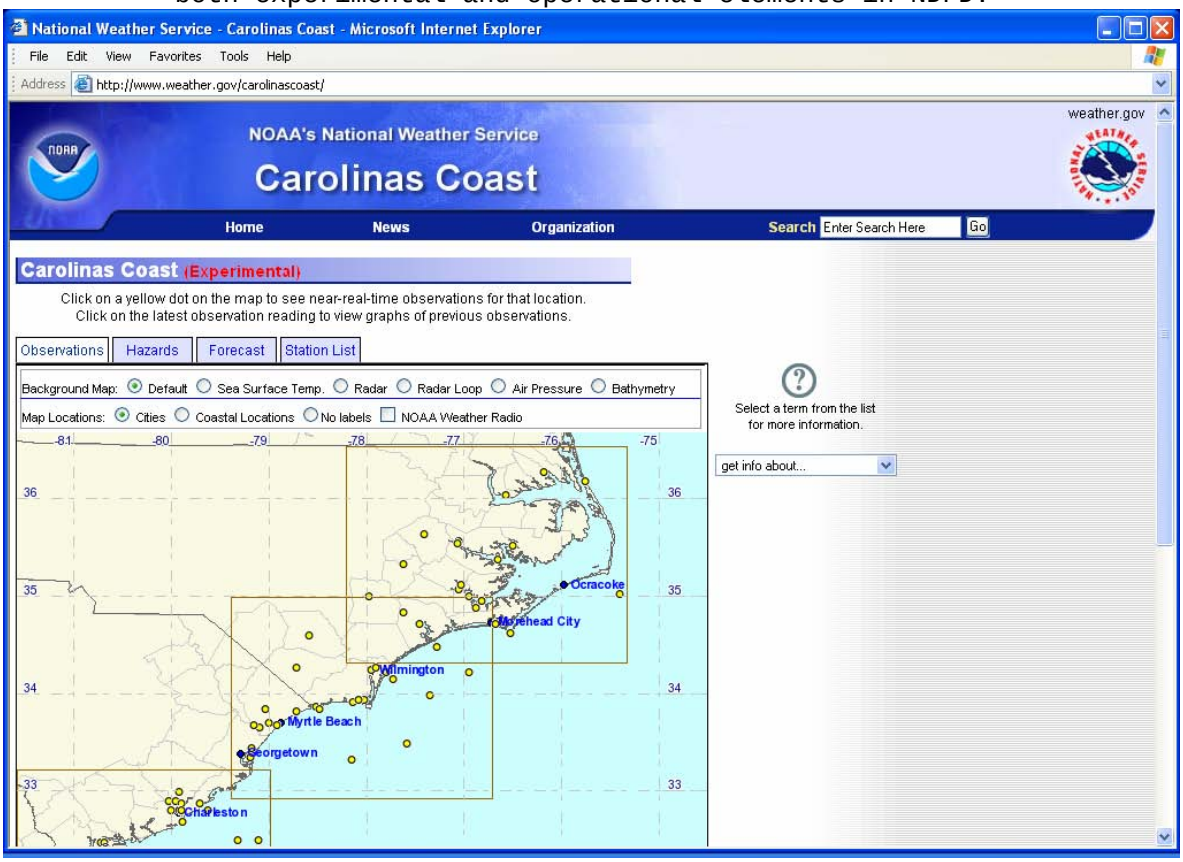
each tab is available at the end of this document. The four tabs include:

1) Observations: All of the near real-time mooring data for thesite is aggregated by data managers at USC. “Carolinas Coast”uses this aggregated data to provide the most recent mooringupdates to users. Some map overlays, such as sea surfacetemperature, are obtained from the Southeast Atlantic CoastalOcean Observing System.
2) Hazards: Using Valid Time Event Code, all active long-fusedmarine and coastal county hazards are assigned color codes forthe appropriate areas on the “Carolinas Coast” map. All short-fused warnings are displayed using polygons. This creates avisual tool to see active hazards. Written hazard text can also be read by clicking on the hazard title (i.e., smallcraft advisory, gale warning, etc).
3) Tides: Tidal information can be obtained by clicking on thecoastline. All tide charts within 10 miles of the area that was clicked will appear in a pop-up box. Just click on thelocation of interest and the user will be connected to NOAA’s National Ocean Service CO-OPS tide predictions for thatlocation. Also, NOAA water level stations are highlighted onthe map so users can see a plot of predicted and actual waterlevel data.
4) Forecasts: The forecast tab utilizes the same base map as theother pages on the site. All of the marine zones are outlinedand users can click in the zone they are interested in andread the 5 day marine forecast for that zone. Point-and-Clickcapability will be added in the future, taking advantage ofthe detailed forecast information in NOAA’s NDFD.

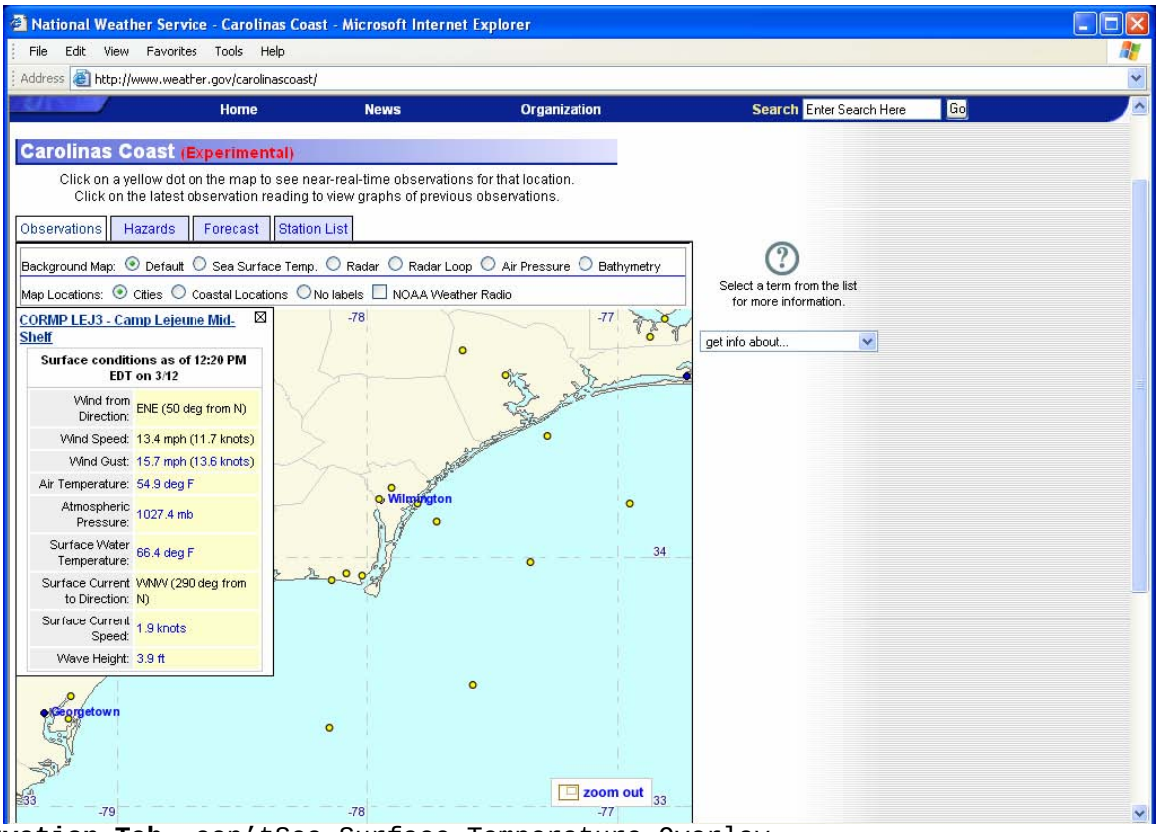
b. Availability - The website will run 24 hours per day and be monitored by NWS staff. The website will be made available to all WFO’s in the coverageregion.

c. Additional Information –

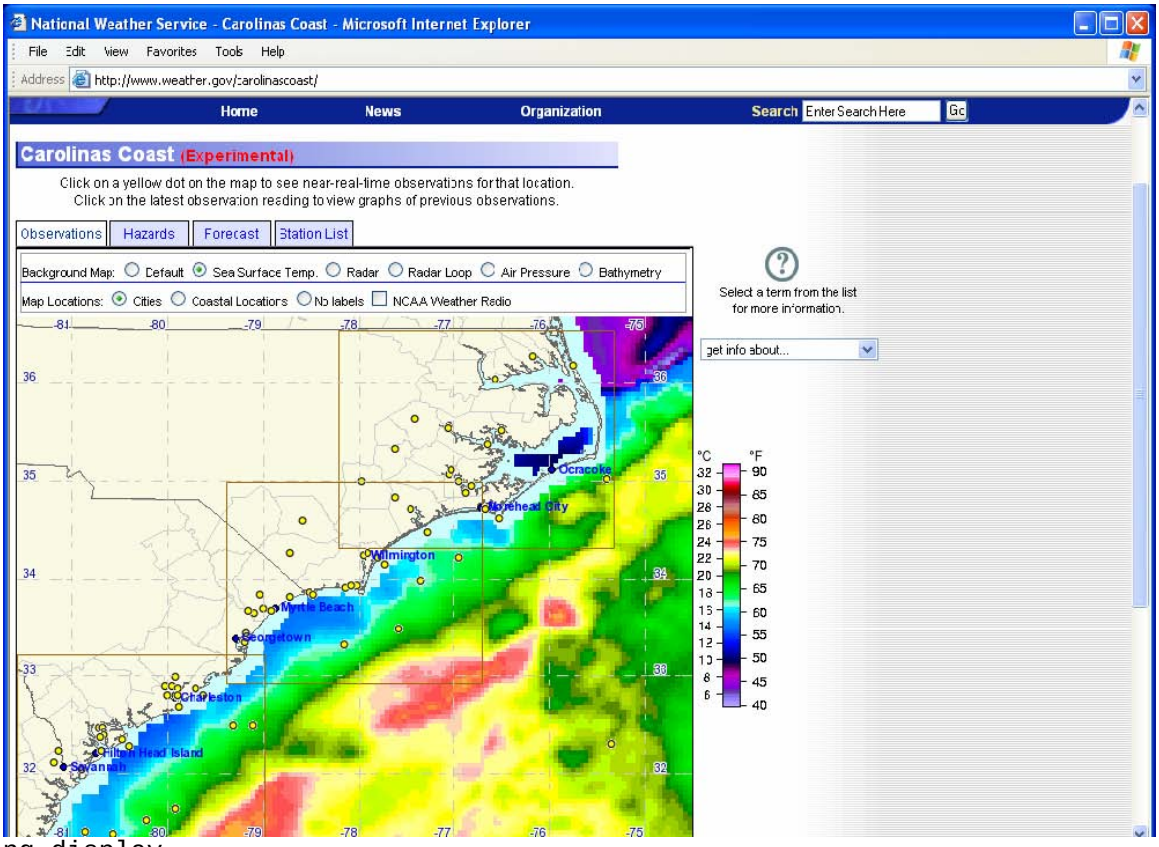
1) National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-506, Digital Data Products/Services Specification provides detailed information on both experimental and operational elements in NDFD.



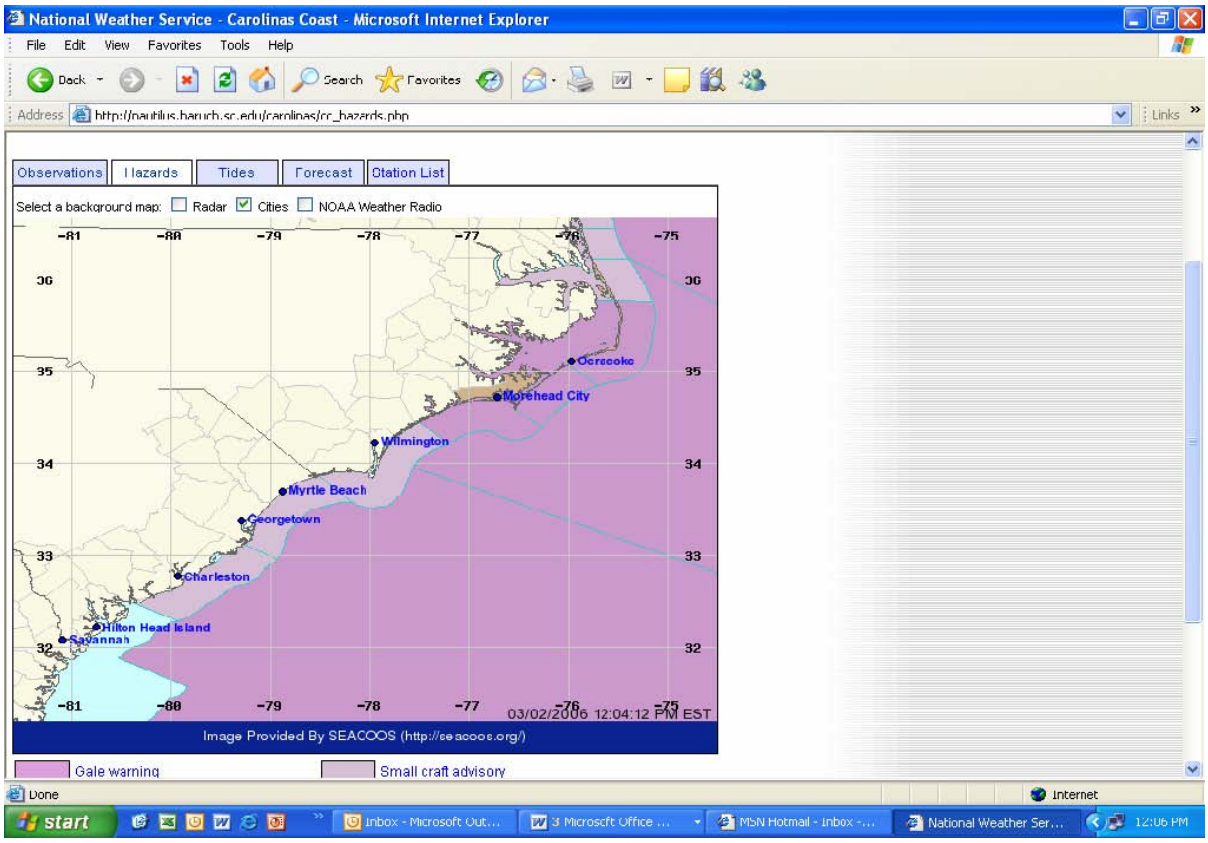
Observation Tab,Buoy data



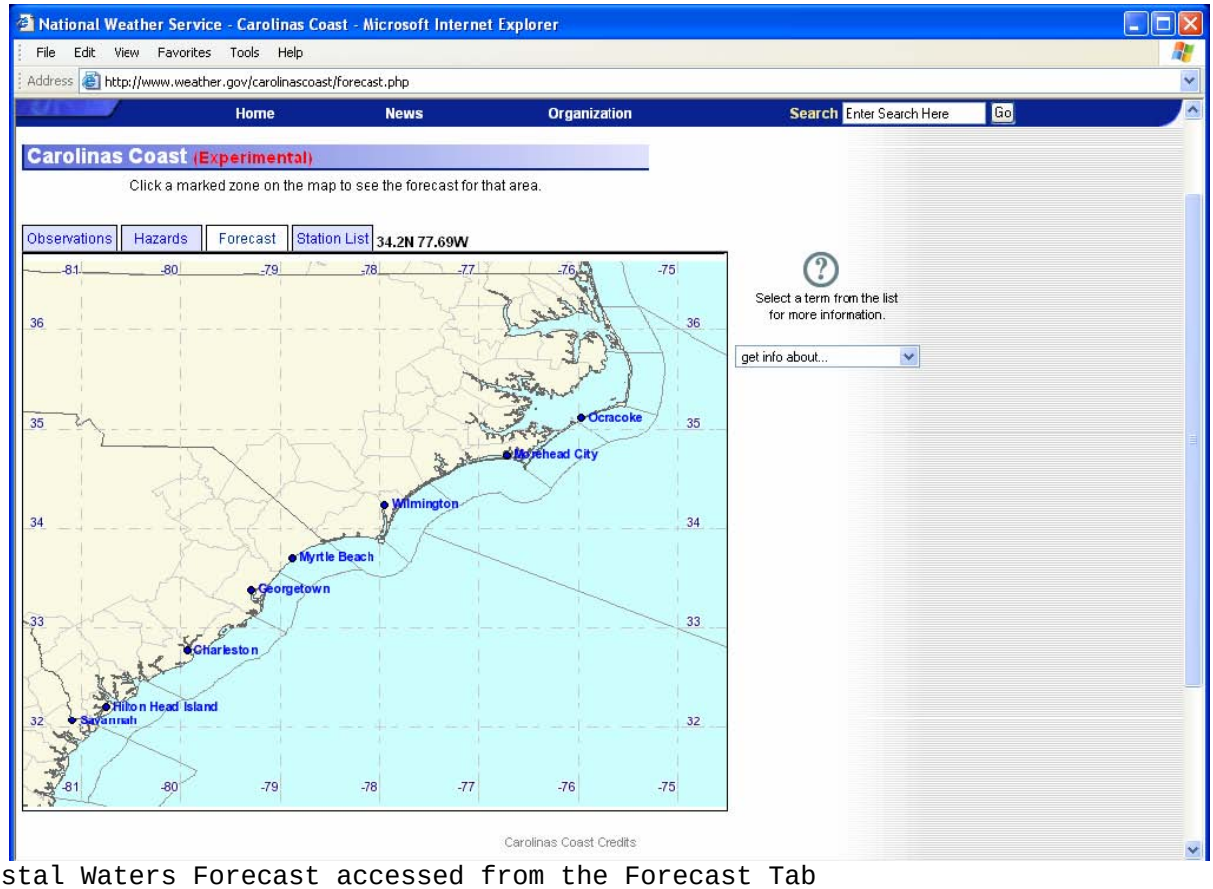
Observation Tab, con’tSea Surface Temperature Overlay



Warning display



Forecast Tab



Coastal Waters Forecast accessed from the Forecast Tab

5-Day Forecast for SURF CITY TO CAPE FEAR NC OUT 20 NM - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://www.weather.gov/carolinascoast/forecast_details.php?region=amz250

Your **National Weather Service** *forecast*

SURF CITY TO CAPE FEAR NC OUT 20 NM

Enter Your "City, ST" or zip code Go

NWS Wilmington, NC

Marine Zone: SURF CITY TO CAPE FEAR NC OUT 20 NM

Last Update: 6:01 pm UTC March 12, 2007

Detailed 5-day Forecast

THROUGH 6 AM: E WINDS 10 TO 15 KT. SEAS AROUND 6 FT. SEAS AROUND 3 FT NEAR SHORE. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

TODAY: E WINDS 10 TO 15 KT...DIMINISHING TO AROJND 10 KT LATE THIS MORNING AND AFTERNOON. SEAS AROUND 6 FT...SUBSIDING TO AROUND 5 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. NEAR SHORE...SEAS AROUND 3 FT. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

TONIGHT: E WINDS AROUND 10 KT. SEAS 3 TO 5 FT...SUBSIDING TO 3 TO 4 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. A SL GHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SUN: NW WINDS 10 KT OR LESS...BECOMING N IN THE AFTERNOON. SEAS 3 TO 4 FT. A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SUN NIGHT: NE WINDS 15 TO 20 KT. SEAS 3 TO 5 FT...BUILDING TO 4 TO 6 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT.

MON: NE WINDS 10 TO 15 KT. SEAS 4 TO 6 FT...SUBSIDING TO 3 TO 5 FT IN THE AFTERNOON.

MON NIGHT: E WNDS AROUND 10 KT. SEAS 2 TO 4 FT.

TUE: NE WINDS AROUND 10 KT. SEAS 2 TO 4 FT.

Marine Zone

Current Conditions

NDBC Station 41013 - Frying Pan Shoals, NC Buoy

Platform not currently reporting

Radar and Satellite Images